http://www.upstateheritagequilttrail.org/ - Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail – Walhalla, South Carolina

WELCOME THE GROUP TO THE BARN QUILT WORKSHOP. This Power Point is used as I teach Barn Quilt Workshops. Many of the BQ pictures are from my local area. You can find many more quilt ideas by typing in “Barn Quilts” into Pinterest and Google Images. Other locations will be shared in future supplies.
Marilyn Carrigan, executive director of the Truman Museum in Truman, Minnesota, says, "I learned that barn quilts were often painted to advertise products, such as Red Man Chewing Tobacco, Ceresota Flour, and Mail Pouch: A nostalgic part of the history of American barns in their own right.

Today barn quilts have become popular again with more and more becoming visible. Quilt trails have been developed in many states. After a number of barn quilts have been displayed in an area, a map is developed that guides the viewers to the location. The map will have an address, maybe a picture of the square and a name or explanation of its meaning. A few of the states that have developed quilt trails include, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Iowa and of course, Michigan.

The quilts can be put on any type of building, from houses, garages, sheds or just mounted on two posts and displayed in the yard or a park."
Donna Sue Groves launched the Ohio Quilt Barn Project in 2001. She was formerly the Southern Ohio field coordinator for Ohio’s Appalachian Arts Initiative and the Southern Ohio field representative for the Ohio Arts Council. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2010 Ohio Governor’s Award for the Arts in Community Development and Partnerships.

The concept of barn quilts began with Donna Sue Groves and her wish to honor her mother, Maxine, and her Appalachian heritage by having a painted quilt hung on her barn in Adams County, Ohio. As is often the case, good ideas fall by the wayside when work and other obligations intervene. Donna Sue mentioned the project from time to time for several years until she was encouraged by her friends to go ahead and paint that quilt square.

Her work with the Ohio Arts Council and other community organizations inspired Donna Sue to alter her plan. Rather than creating a personal tribute, she suggested that a “sampler” of twenty quilt squares could be created along a driving trail that would invite visitors to travel through the countryside. A committee of volunteers worked together to both plan the trail and to formulate guidelines as to how the project would be managed. Several barn owners signed on, and the work began.

So it happened that the first quilt square on the American Quilt Trail does not hang at the Groves farm. The Ohio Star was painted by local artists and installed on a building at a greenhouse nearby—a location that allowed for a public celebration of the inauguration of the quilt trail. A Snail’s Trail quilt square was later painted by an artist and mounted on the barn where Donna Sue and Maxine Groves reside.

That first quilt trail was hardly begun when a group of quilters from neighboring Brown County, Ohio, started their own project. For several years, Donna Sue worked with organizations in Ohio and Tennessee to foster the growth of new trails. She also served as advisor for dozens of individuals who were either creating a painted quilt for their own property or planning a quilt trail in their community.

Quilt trails are created by quilt guilds, civic groups, local arts councils, 4-H clubs, school groups, and other organizations. Most are a countywide effort, which allows for a distinct trail in a single area and creates local pride in the project. This simple idea has spread to 48 states and to Canada, and the trail continues to grow. Over 7000 quilts are part of organized trails; dozens more are scattered through the countryside waiting to be discovered.

I’m often told that barn quilts must be part of the wonderful Amish quilting heritage or that they came to America from some European tradition. Although both of those theories are interesting and have been published from time to time, they just are not based in fact. How can I be so certain? The answer is a rather simple one. No one has been able to document the location of a painted quilt square that existed prior to the Ohio Star that was painted in Adams County, Ohio in 2001. Donna Sue Groves’ idea continues to inspire folks across the country to join what has become the largest grassroots public arts movement in our history.
The feature length documentary "Pieced Together" is currently in production from Director/Producer Julianne Donofrio. The film tells the story of how one woman's love for her mother changed the American landscape - and saved her life.
Suzi writes in her book that she had always loved barns. As a child (remember no DVDs to watch – hot dry trips – windows rolled down in summer) her mother had the children count barns while on the long drive to grandmother’s house – several states away. Different types of barns would mean different “points” in the counting game.

As Suzi matured – she continued loving barns. She first noticed paintings on barns – Barn Quilts. She began looking for more. Suzi tells in those early years she would camp with her husband and dog in a tent to find barn quilts. Today, she credits her husband being able to continue his job while on the road – and they travel in a nice motor home. Suzi’s reputation is growing and now she is sought after as a Keynote Speaker. SUZI IS COMING BACK TO NORFOLK – JULY 25, 2015 AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR NEBRASKA STATE QUILT GUILD ANNUAL CONFERENCE.
Suzi Parron’s website – suppose to be updated in 2015-16
IOWA JUMPED ON THE BARN QUILT BAND WAGON – WHOLEHEARTEDLY – TRYING TO GET PEOPLE OFF THE INTERSTATE TO LOCAL COUNTIES – Economic Development effort

Goose Tracks, Criss Cross, Jacobs Ladder, Bow Tie, Clay’s Choice, Starry Path, Five-Pointed Star, Winding Ways, Cross & Crown
Design Application

Painted board

Painted directly on the barn
Over 200 Barn Quilts were made to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Pender in 2010
What began as a fun project for a few Pender women who first saw barn quilts while driving through Iowa has exploded into one of the most heavily talked about pieces of the upcoming Pender Q125 celebration. And the barn quilts that adorn seemingly more houses than not both inside and outside the city limits appear likely to draw visitors from outside of the area for months and even years to come. The Barn Quilts of Pender tour launched June 1, and already cars from neighboring communities can be seen driving slowly through Pender to enjoy the nearly 200 quilts featured on the tour.

Credit for launching the phenomenon goes to the Q125 Beautification Committee. They put together the first eight quilts, which are celebrated on the pages of a special brochure and newsletter with listings and a map that have been put together to draw tourists to Pender and then guide them from quilt to quilt while they are here. The village of Pender agreed to pay for a portion of the printing costs with the hope that it will bring outside visitors to town.

What is a barn quilt?
The story of the barn quilt is told in the brochure and tour information. Tourists will learn that barn quilts were originally conceived by an Ohio woman named Donna Sue Groves, a member of her state’s arts council. She created her first barn quilt by copying one of her mother’s quilt patterns and painting it on a barn in Adams County, Ohio. Groves quickly figured out that, like many forms of public art, the barn quilt could serve as a tourist attraction for her rural area. The Adams County Barn Sampler was born in 2001, and now a National Quilt Trail exists that marks over 400 quilt squares across the country. All capture the spirit of each community in art and heritage. With roughly 200 barn quilts, Pender is suddenly a hotbed in the center of a small national movement that celebrates both art and rural heritage — not a bad fit for a community that is celebrating 125 years June 20-27. The vast majority of the barn quilts in Pender are painted on plywood that measures 4x4 feet or 3x3 feet and are marked with signs that display the name of the quilt pattern.

Consisting of wood and paint instead of cloth and thread, they closely emulate quilt patterns that have been around for many generations in some cases. Others are unique designs dreamed up recently in garages right here in Pender. For more information about the barn quilt tour or to obtain a brochure or newsletter, visit local banks or gas stations or call Debbie Christiansen at 385-3147.
Nuckolls County Nebraska

Duane (Tub) Drohman in the Massey-Harris Museum in Ruskin, NE

Dennis Schuff farm, Ruskin, NE
4-Her has created many, many barn quilts as 4-H projects – many can be found on Hw 4 east of Daykin, NE
Fillmore County

Fillmore County Fairgrounds
As the Barn Quilt movement progresses – designs seem to become more complicated
More Complex Pattern

Renae Kamler’s Barn Quilt - honor of her grandmother
Painted by Shickley NE art students
Gage County

National Homestead Movement
150th Anniversary - 2012

Scavenger hunt on grounds/trails for quilt blocks
GPS – Geo caching
Barn quilt workshops
Gage County Fairgrounds

So, What's a Barn Quilt?

Each piece of art predominantly features a repeating design consisting of geometric shapes and patterns on a solid background.

For hundreds of years, quilts have been an integral part of the fabric of rural life for families and communities around the world. In recent times, an Ohio woman, Jamae Van Gilder, wanted to honor her mother, who was a life-long quilter and share her love for an American tradition. So, she reached out to quilting clubs across the state, and the Barn Quilt Project was born.

Before long, people were asking how they could incorporate these quilts into their homes or businesses. From that simple beginning, the idea has grown to a national movement.

"Consisting of wood and paint instead of fabric and thread, these unique decorative panels offer a unique way to add color and a focal point to our landscapes.

Today, Barn Quilts are found on barns in a variety of sizes, shapes, and materials. They are a symbol of community, history, and beauty. The process of creating a Barn Quilt is a shared experience, and the end result is a celebration of our heritage."

Thanks to the following organizations, businesses, and individuals for your support of the Barn Quilt Project.

- Gage County Extension
- Gage County Fairgrounds
- Beatrice, Nebraska
- Peru, Nebraska
- Beatrice, Nebraska
- Gage County Fair

18 Barn Quilts made same year as Homestead 150th Celebration

Fun Fact:
- 14 different color were used to paint the Barn Quilts
- 13 different colors were used to hold the paint brushes in the hands of the artists
- Paint used in the Barn Quilts is a traditional paint with a base of linseed oil and a variety of colors
- Barn Quilt Trail is a self-guided tour that includes 18 Barn Quilts in Gage County, Nebraska
Specialized

Enlarged heritage picture of family applied as barn quilt

Workshop Preparation

- Planning
- Promotion
  - Flyer/brochure
  - Facebook
  - News Articles written
  - Registration Fees
  - Timing (length) of workshop
  - One day or two evening workshops
- Workshop supplies (see following slides)
- Power Point Presentation
- Handouts
Order and have the boards cut BEFORE the workshop

Make sure the lumberyard (or whoever cuts the boards) – has the capability. I’ve had one lumberyard that didn’t have the proper supplies – they had a DULL saw blade and cut in from one side (cut from the edge to the center) and flipped the board and (cut from the edge to the center) – HUGE splinters on ½ the top and ½ on the bottom of the board – there was nothing I could do – NOT professional and the participants were disappointed in the boards they received.
Miscellaneous Supplies

- Computer/projector to show ppt;
- Handouts (shortened version of ppt; “formula” for designs
- Tarps for floor; table covering
- Painters tape – 1 roll per two participants (if they work on 4x4’ boards)
- Pencils, paper; plastic cups; sandwich bags;
- Foam brushes … or
- Paint brushes (cheap brushes leave streaks)
- 3’ and/or 4’ yard sticks (straight edge); transparent quilting ruler
- Sharp edge tool (xacto knife, razor blade)
- Rulers or popsicle sticks to burnish tape down
- Hair dryers (to dry paint between coats)
- Trash containers;
- Container/Water for cleanup
Many ideas

- Quilt Design Software (Electric Quilt, Quilt Pro etc.)
- Google Images (type in “Barn Quilts”)
- Pinterest (search for Barn Quilts)
Design Formula...

- Participants may be intimidated by quilt designs
- Analyze blocks
  - Most blocks can be easily dissected
  - Help ease participants mind for designing their board
Divide Pattern by 1/3s
Design by $\frac{1}{4}^{ths}$
Design by $\frac{1}{5^{th}}, \frac{1}{6^{th}}$

Abstract Flag is $\frac{1}{4}$ of Barn Quilt Block
At the Barn Quilt workshops I facilitate – I purchase my supplies from my local lumberyard for local economic benefit. I order boards several days before the workshop to allow the lumberyard time to cut the boards. Many small local lumberyards DO NOT KNOW about MDO – Franchise lumberyards (and big box stores) will probably have MDO – or can order them. Good OUTDOOR plywood with one smooth side works well.
The Boards need to be PRIMED before the workshop – either the workshop facilitator/volunteer does it ahead of time or participants must bring the board primed to the workshop with them. As a “gold” personality style – I prime the boards ahead to time because of ‘Quality Control’ – I want participants to have a successful product and know that I will be using the suggested tools/products.
Saves a lot of time
Be sure to choose Outdoor Paints – if you use Interior Paints – color may fade. Martin Seymour paints have a little HOUSE symbol on their color pallet to let you know if the tint/shade can be used on EXTERIOR PAINTS.

Be sure to ask the paint dealer for OUTDOOR color/hue to be added to the paint...“Indoor” color/hue will fade quicker in the sun. In my local lumberyard which sells Martinj Seymour paints – there is a TINY HOUSE on the Designer Palette to indicate which paint color is for ‘OUTDOOR’ use.
Simpler designs are easier for beginning participants
Curves – More Challenging

Difficult to outline with painters tape
Border “stops the design” – for example if the barn quilt has red stripes and it will be placed on a red barn/building – the red color continues.....border will define the end of the quilt pattern.
Prepare your board with Exterior Grade Primer. Front and Back. 2 coats  Make sure the edges are totally covered
Measure, Measure, Measure

‘Transparent’ quilt ruler is helpful
Measuring will be your biggest challenge to teach.
Tape Area to Paint
Mark areas for different paint colors with sticky notes.
A ruler or popsicle stick (straight edge) to be used to burnish down the painters tape. Push tape down first with fingers – then BURNISH! – At the workshop - it might be fun to show the Power Point – and when it is time to begin the actual design/painting – hand everyone a popsicle – telling them NOT to throw away the stick.....they will be using it to burnish down the painters tape.
Paint first section

Sticky Notes to tell color for each section
Preferred -
Let dry/cure overnight
then tape
next section
Depending on the saturation of color you may need to do several coats
Drop clothes work great
Add Second Color of paint...
Additional Colors
Hair dryers and fans help dry the paint!!
Older 4-Hers are great mentors, let them help!!!
Final Coating...

Your Determination.....many people do not add additional coating

- May help prevent crackling & peeling
  - Catalyzed Lacquer (one contractor recommends)
  - Water based polyurethane
  - Boat sealer – Yellow?
  - Spray acrylic enamel – clear coat interior-exterior (Suggested by artist who creates motorcycle helmet designs.)
Hanging the 8x8’ Quilt

Use appropriate tools

Kamler Barn Quilt
Side of a Sturdy Structure

Betty & Larry Edzards
Bruning Nebraska
Reinforce Structure If Necessary

Reinforce **back of barn door** before application

Quilt reinforced to hang in one piece
Dwight & Barb Schmidt, Fairbury

In Pawnee County NE – local power company partnered with 4-Hers to use boom equipment at not cost for 4-H Barn Quilt project.
Barn Quilts
Kim Bearnes
Extension Educator
Stanton County, Nebraska

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States of Agriculture.

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